

## **Minutes of EH Litter Committee**

**February 13, 2014**

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

### **Attendance:**

Sylvia Overby: Town Board Liaison

Deb Klughers: Litter Committee Chair

Nina Friscia: Litter Committee Vice Chair

Howard Lebwith

John Rooney: Parks Department

### **New Business**

#### **Membership:**

We discussed new membership

- Deborah said she would repost a request for new membership on the Patch.
- Nina said Afton DiSunno would be joining the Litter Committee next meeting. Nina knows two Springs women who may have an interest will send the minutes and agenda (Deb will e-mail her a copy of agenda) to them this week.

#### **Home Exchange:**

A discussion about the re-opening of the Home Exchange.

- Sylvia said that Craig from Recycling Center had visited her earlier at 3:30 but had to return to work.
- Craig advised that the DEC might get involved.
- Residents cannot drop off junk but only reusable goods.
- Charging a fee by weight was discussed Craig said it was not optional but necessary that the committee come up with suggestions for a fee per load or a system that would involve a trip to the weighing station.
- Sylvia said that there is a problem with staffing, because the Home Exchange cannot be unattended. Too many liabilities for the town. Therefore an arrangement must be considered that offers the residents a place to drop off their reusable goods and the Town doesn't spend an excess of money on labor.
- An idea from Deb was recommended from Kings Park (Smithtown), that East Hampton could assign one to two days a month that the home exchange would accept reusable goods the residents would drop-off.

#### **Recycling:**

Deb suggested more public education/participation is needed for the Recycling Centers.

- What can be recycled and what cannot.

#### **Computers and Electronics**

- Howard mentioned the problem with computer components.
- He also was concerned that there are children in Town that cannot afford computers.
- He mentioned Paul Finendella? That he used to upgrade computers and give them to needy people.

- Sylvia said that the dump will accept all electronics for free and Winter Bros. collects those items that are in working order.
- Sylvia mentioned the waste at one time had been going to a company that specialized in electronic components waste, but has since gone bankrupt.
- Deb mentioned electronics is defined at the Recycling Center as anything with a PLUG!
- Deb said that Steve Lynch found another vendor who would start collecting and removing electronic waste at the Recycling Center.
- Deb mentioned she was involved in a Lap Top Recycling Event through a grant from the Peconic Estuary Program.
  - A Digital Literacy Program sponsored by Peconic Institute, EPIE Institute
  - They collected about 300 computers.
  - BOCES will refurbish them.
  - End users are Spanish speaking families, as a way for them to learn digital and English literacy.
  - The family needs to complete assignments on the laptop, and then they can keep the laptop
- We all agreed that security is an issue, that data must be wiped clean from the hard drive when donating a computer.
- We discussed that the East Hampton Litter Committee might want to consider finding a way to refurbish and donate laptops to “needy” people- including kids, families and seniors.
- How to define “needy”?
- Sylvia mentioned Project Most may be a good place to identify needy kids and families.
- Howard agreed to take on this project that he will talk with Paul.

#### Fees at the Recycling Center.

- It was discussed that the Town increased the yearly fees.
  - Deb is going to redo the PSA on recycling sticker fees .change to 2014 fees.
- After raising the fee on commercial landscapers for leaves, the town has seen increased revenues.
- We take cardboard for free ( it is a commodity and the Town gets \$\$)
- We take shrink wrap for free.
  - Spoke of rerunning the shrink-wrap PSA on WLNG
- Nina mentioned that she spoke with Girl Scout Troop 313 and they are interested in starting a recycling program at Springs School. (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades)
  - They would also like to be involved in a Town based educational campaign.
  - This would afford them some media and recognition for their work.
  - They would spread the word to Town residents that recycling is an important piece of keeping the Town free of litter and the environment a safer place for human, animal and plant life.
  - They are interested in doing PSAs on Litter with LNG or LTV, like we did with the Springs Acting Club kids.

#### Compost at Recycling Center

- The town has a leaf and yard debris compost program that is working well for landscapers and residents.

- It is not organic compost, not good for organic vegetable gardening.
- There is no opportunity for adding food scraps at this time; it can be a public health hazard because it attracts rodents.
- Deb suggested the Town could advertise to encourage residents to use this service, so the Town could reduce its tipping fees and increase participation.
- This may also reduce illegal dumping of brush in woods, road ends...
- Deb to discuss with Steve- will write a press release (with his approval) to be issued in time for spring clean up.
- Nina will take a tour of a Farm Digester Program at Vermont Tech College in Randolph VT and give a report in the near future.

### Grants

- Deb asked Sylvia about how Nicole gets her grants selection.
- Sylvia responded by saying she received them through a Clearing House.
- A discussion about whether members of the Litter Committee could get Nicole's help in finding grants.
  - Do we need permission?
  - The grant cannot be a matching grant
  - The grant are usually reimbursement- we have to spend the \$\$ first- so is has to be in the budget...
- Sylvia mentioned about a new Town Committee ,East Hampton Arts Council. Town started the committee, a group of artist, writers, architects etc.,an "industry" the Town needs to support.
  - They identified the grant they wanted to apply for.
  - They went to Nicole for "tutoring" on what was the best way to word it and what the people offering the grant were looking for.

### Methane capture from capped landfill

- The landfill at the dump is unlined so there isn't a direct stream of methane gas being released through the venting tubes.
- Not enough methane gas exiting from tubes that stick out from the mound to capture.

### Showing the Film Bag It @ LTV

- A date was picked... Friday night March 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00 to 7:30(6:15 actual show time) Seth and Lena (LTV) offered to help. Seth would volunteer his time
- It is not controversial it is fun and informative, running time- 74 minutes.
- The target audience would be kids, families, environmental folks, all others as well as people who want to support the Food Pantry.
- A donation of non-perishable food to be donated to the Food Pantry will be used as ticket in.
- LTV has a popcorn machine-Deb will research if we can raise money through sale of popcorn for the Food Pantry as well.
- Bring your own drink.
- Kathleen Kirkwood has the film

- Nina offered to go online to the website to see if there is a release form or any think the Town must do to get permission for a public viewing.
- Sylvia will get permission from the Town Board at the next Work Session.
- Nina and Deborah will run the door.
- Nina will call the Food Pantry about being the recipient of food from the movie. If they are not interested we will ask ARF.
- This will give Nina a chance to follow up on the Senior Housing and coordinating a Town recycling Program with the help of teen workers earning Community Service.

Nina mentioned a Prix Fix Dinner and Environmental Film Series . She will send info on the one that is running in Garden City N.Y.

### **Old Business**

Shoreline Sweep- a GO for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Food, music and Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation as speaker. Dozens of Volunteers- Organized by Dell with help from Deb and others...

Mutt Mitt Bags John mentioned that the town has 97,000 printed bags and has increased its inventory by a third due to \$3000.00 Litter Committee donation.

Litter on Napeague Stretch Between Amagansett and Montauk

On January 24<sup>th</sup> Sylvia wrote a letter to Assembly Member Fred Thiele Jr about the Litter on State Highway 27- the "Napeague Stretch".

On Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Fred wrote a letter to the Regional Director of Department of Transportation DOT about the request from Councilwoman Sylvia Overby's for a much-needed Litter Clean-up. Fred Thiele's office cc'd letter back to Councilwoman Overby that action was taken and request for State Cleaning Schedule.

CFL/ LED Howard will do a presentation on CFL

There is a need for town sponsored recycling of CFL's.

Mass Gatherings refuse removal

\$50.00 fee for garbage disposal of garbage generated at town permitted Mass Gathering is still being considered/discussed by Town Board.